

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## School Report Cards

### 2023-24

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**Q01: Where can I find information on how indicator ratings are calculated?**

**A:** Please refer to the [2023-2024 Accountability Manual](#) (“the Manual”) for information on the indicators, the ratings, and the other data elements found on the South Carolina report cards.

**Q02: What denominator was used in high school calculations?**

**A:** The denominators used are as follows:

- **College and Career Readiness**– students in the four-year on-time graduation cohort file (includes graduates and non-graduates)
- **Graduation Rate**– students in the four-year on-time graduation cohort file (includes graduates and non-graduates)
- **Achievement and Preparing for Success**– in 2022-23 the cohort of students used for these indicators changed from prior years. Below are screenshots from the 2023-24 EOC Accountability Manual pp 33-34 to explain the cohort used for Achievement:

**What Students are Included in the Indicator:**

- **School:** The High School Academic Achievement indicator includes all students who have been assigned a ninth-grade code (9GR; according to the process described in the [INDICATOR: Graduation Rate](#) section), regardless of the specific 9GR assigned, who fit into any of the following three categories:
  - (1) Students who: were enrolled at the High School in a course which requires an EOCEP test included in the Academic Achievement indicator (*i.e.*, Algebra 1 or English 2, or the course enrollments required for students taking the corresponding SC ALT assessments) for at least three days in the case of a 45-day course, for at least five days in the case of a 90-day course, or for at least ten days in the case of a 180-day course prior to the first day of testing for that exam for the reported school year (*i.e.*, Summer 2023, Fall 2023, or Spring 2024 for 2024 Report Cards) and remain in one of the High School’s four-year graduation cohorts on the 180<sup>th</sup> day.
  - (2) Students who: (a) are in their first year in High School, (b) were enrolled in a course prior to being assigned a 9GR which requires an EOCEP test included in the Academic Achievement indicator for at least the durations described in (1) above, **and** (c) are enrolled at the High School by the 180<sup>th</sup> day of the reported school year and remain in the High School’s first-year graduation cohort on the 180<sup>th</sup> day.
  - (3) Students who: (a) are included in the Graduation Rate indicator for the High School (see the [INDICATOR: Graduation Rate](#) section) **and** (b) have never been enrolled in a course which requires an EOCEP test included in the Academic Achievement indicator for at least the durations described in (1) above.

- **District:** All students who are included in the indicator for any High School in the District, regardless of whether the student transferred between two or more High Schools within the District (including Residential Treatment Facilities and Group Homes) and regardless of whether the student took the assessment(s) in question, are included in the denominator for the calculation of District indicators for comparison metrics or for District report cards.
- **State:** All students who are included in the indicator for any High School in the state, regardless of whether the student transferred between two or more High Schools within the state (including Residential Treatment Facilities and Group Homes) and regardless of whether the student took the assessment(s) in question, are included in the denominator for the calculation of District indicators for comparison metrics or for state report cards.
- Students awarded a transfer credit in Algebra 1 or English 2 from accredited out-of-state schools (or in state from accredited sources other than public schools as defined in Regulation 43-273) or awarded equivalent credit from home-school experiences pursuant to Chapter 65 of Title 59 of the Code of Laws are excluded from both the numerator and the denominator of this indicator for the EOCEP test associated with the transferred credit.
- Students not tested for an authorized and properly documented purpose described in the most recently released Students Not Tested Guidelines (found on the SCDE website under [Student Information System Documents](#) or the [School District Memoranda Archive](#)) are excluded from both the numerator and denominator of this indicator.
- Students whose date of entry into United States schools is less than 24 months prior to their date tested and who were not initially English proficient at the time of their initial enrollment (see the section on [Recently Arrived Multilingual Learners](#)) are excluded from both the numerator and denominator of this indicator.
- Students included in this indicator who do not have an appropriate EOCEP score or a score on the corresponding SC ALT assessment are included in the denominator of this indicator when calculating the percent of all students who meet or exceed expectations but cannot be included in the numerator because of missing the test.
- Only the EOCEPs for Algebra 1 and English 2, or the appropriate corresponding SC ALT assessment, are included in this indicator and, for each student, the highest EOCEP score in each subject area that was obtained at any previous time is the score used for that student.

**Q03: Why don't the numbers posted in the SCDE Assessments results and the Report Card assessment results match?**

**A:** SCDE Assessments report the scores for ALL students in the school who tested that year.

For elementary and middle schools, the Report Card/Accountability results only display test scores for students who were actively enrolled on the 45th day and the first day of testing and were continuously enrolled in the school all year (between the 45th day and the first day of testing) with no break in enrollment. We also excuse from the performance results students who reside in group homes and Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF) as well as some Multilingual students if they just moved to the US within the past two years.

**Q04: What if I think the items “Second graders who are on track for success in English Language Arts at the third grade” and “Second graders who are on track for success in Mathematics at the third grade” are wrong?**

**A:** These two items and the items about first graders on track for success at the second grade are questions on the Summer Survey. The information displayed on the report card is the same information entered into the Summer Survey by somebody at the school.

**Q05: In the College & Career Readiness (CCR) section of the report card, the information appearing on bar charts on each screen matches, but when you click on the left of the screen to look at the results for the individual assessment components, those numbers do not match.**

**A:** The data displayed under the individual test results and dual enrollment are from the 2023-24 school year only. That information is noted at the top of that column. The College & Career Readiness data displayed in bar charts are the results of matching to the students who were in the four year on-time graduation cohort for 2024.

**Q06: On the College and Career Readiness (Detail) page what do the numbers on the right side of the bar charts represent? (17/200, for example)**

**A:** These numbers display the proportion of your graduation cohort who met the criteria for college/career readiness on the specific item. If 17/200 appears next to the ASVAB bar, this means that 17 of the 200 graduation cohort at your school scored 31 or greater on the ASVAB. This does not mean that 183 students did not score 31 or greater. It is possible that only 50 students even took the ASVAB.

**Q07: Where does the number of students completing a FAFSA come from?**

**A:** The US Department of Education reports that information at this website: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/about/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school> Information for the report card was downloaded from the site in mid-August.

**Q08: One of our schools only has 18 Multilingual Learner (ML) students in the report card subgroup for Achievement. However, the Multilingual Learners page on the Report Card site shows an n-count of 36 for the subgroup; 26 for assessed. Please help me understand the difference in those numbers.**

**A:**

- **Number of Students taking the English language proficiency test:** Number of students taking the ACCESS test in current school year
- **Number of ML students in the ML Subgroup:** Number of students selected from PowerSchool 180 day file (esl codes excluding codes of 8, 8FOREX, 8FRMEL, 8NVREL, 9, or Blank, and gradelevel K-12). Note: The ML population for subgroup reporting includes students who have achieved proficiency (coded in PowerSchool as M1, M2, M3, or M4), students who have not achieved proficiency (coded in PowerSchool as 1.0-6.0, A1, A2, A3), or students with

waivers from services (coded as W) and students who have a missing composite score (coded as CM).

- **Number of Students in the ML Subgroup included in the Met Progress calculation:** The ML students selected from PowerSchool 160 day file and enrolled on or before the 45th day of the same school year within the same school (for continuous enrollment); and with “years in the program” greater than or equal to 1 (students with an initial enrollment date or initial assessment date on or before October 1, 2023)
- **Number of Students in the ML Subgroup who Met Progress Toward Proficiency Target:** The students among the above “Number of Students in the ML Subgroup included in the Met Progress calculation”, whose current year (2023-2024) ACCESS test score, greater or equal than each student’s targeted goal (determined by the target goal table, calculating from student’s “Date of Initial Test” and “Years in the program”).
- **Percent of Students in the ML Subgroup who Met Progress Toward Proficiency Target:** Divide the above “Number of Students in the ML Subgroup included in the Met Progress calculation” by “Number of Students in the ML Subgroup who Met Progress Toward Proficiency Target”
- **Number of Students in the ML Subgroup who Achieved English Language Level Proficiency:** The students among the above “Number of ML students in the ML Subgroup” and with esl codes M1, M2, M3, M4.
- **Percent of Students in the ML Subgroup who Achieved English Language Level Proficiency:** Divide the above “Number of ML students in the ML Subgroup” by “Number of Students in the ML Subgroup who Achieved English Language Level Proficiency”.

You can find more details for specific calculation methods documented in the EOC Accountability Manual.

**Q09: If a school has fewer than 20 Multilingual Learners (ML), where do the extra ten points go for the overall rating?**

- A:** When an elementary or middle school has fewer than 20 ML students, the extra ten points normally given to the Multilingual Learners’ Proficiency (MLP) indicator are redistributed equally to Achievement and Student Progress before calculating the OVERALL rating. These points do not affect the individual indicator ratings. For high schools the points are redistributed to Achievement and Graduation Rate before calculating the overall rating for the school.

Example of code for elementary and middle school reweighting

(Note: AchIndx is the total index score calculated from the ELA/Math test scores;  
ProgIndx is the growth score for all students provided by EA):

```
***IF MISSING ML ADD 5pts TO ACHIEVEMENT;  
IF SCHOOLTYPCD in ('E','M') and NUM_ACHIEVE ne . and NUM_ML=. THEN DO;  
    NUM_ACHIEVE=ROUND((.4000*AchIndx),.01);  
    DEN_ACHIEVE=40;  
END;  
***IF MISSING ML ADD 5pts TO PROGRESS;  
IF SCHOOLTYPCD in ('E','M') and NUM_PROGRESS ne . and NUM_ML=. THEN DO;  
    NUM_PROGRESS=ROUND(ProgIndx*40/35),.1);  
    DEN_PROGRESS=40;  
END;
```

**Q10: How did SCDE determine the teacher counts and average teacher salaries?**

**A:** Due to the teacher shortage that South Carolina is experiencing, it was appropriate to include teachers employed 180 days or more with a minimum of .95 full-time equivalents for the calculations that determined the number of teachers and the average teacher salaries.

**Q11: Where can I find more detailed information about the report card data elements and calculation methodologies?**

**A:** The 2023-24 Accountability Manual prepared by the Education Oversight Committee details the data elements to appear in the report card and calculation methodologies. The document is available here: <https://www.eoc.sc.gov/accountability-manuals>

**Q12: Are there any resources we can share with parents that would explain the report cards?**

**A:** A document prepared by the Education Oversight Committee for the general public is available here: <https://eoc.sc.gov/school-report-cards/information-families-and-communities>